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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Joseph P. Colgan of Wyoming, Illinois, who passed away on April 28, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph Colgan was born on September 24, 1913 in Wyoming, Illinois; his parents were John I. Colgan and Sophia Frances (nee Coyle); he married Majella Harty on May 25, 1940 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Kinsman; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph Colgan attended Wyoming schools and graduated as valedictorian of Wyoming High School in 1931; he subsequently attended St. Bede Academy in Peru and St. Ambrose College in Davenport, Iowa; and

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WHEREAS, Joseph Colgan began his career as a farmhand at home and as a store clerk at Johnson's Drugstore during his high school years; after college, during the Great Depression, he worked 4 years as a clerk at the John Deere farm implement business in Wyoming; he was then recruited to be a regional sales representative for the John Deere Company, working for 10 years covering central Illinois; in 1947, he returned to Wyoming to purchase and manage the John Deere dealership; his Colgan Company implement business served area farmers for 40 years and sold and constructed Behlen grain bins; he was later

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1 joined in business by his son, Tim, who succeeded him as the  
2 dealer; and

3 WHEREAS, Joseph Colgan was a member of St. Dominic Catholic  
4 Church, where he served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and  
5 cemetery trustee; he was a member of the Knights of Columbus  
6 for 76 years, attaining the 4th Degree and Grand Knight levels;  
7 he was a 67-year charter member and former president of the  
8 Wyoming Lions Club; he also served as a Wyoming Fire District  
9 trustee, a Chamber of Commerce member, and a member of the  
10 Stark County Heart Association, the Health Improvement  
11 Association, the Crop Extension Resource Development Council,  
12 and the Soil and Water Conservation District; and

13 WHEREAS, Joseph Colgan enjoyed spending time with his  
14 family and friends, sharing amusing stories, helping others,  
15 reading, travel, and the Chicago Cubs; and

16 WHEREAS, Joseph Colgan was preceded in death by his  
17 parents; 4 siblings, (Germaine) Sr. Maurita, O.P. (Sinsinawa  
18 Dominicans), John E. "Manny," Mary Gasperich, and Peter James  
19 "Jim" Colgan; and a grandson, Daniel J. Gill; and

20 WHEREAS, Joseph Colgan is survived by his wife of 75 years,  
21 Majella; 12 children, Judy (Bob) Curran, Joanne (Gene) Gill,  
22 Pat, Tim (Patty), Colleen Colgan, Paul (Phyllis), Philip (Geol

1 Weirs), Jane (John) Francis, Susan (Ken) Knapp, Marty (Sue),  
2 Greg, and Tom (Gloria); 22 grandchildren; 34  
3 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews; therefore,  
4 be it

5 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
6 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his  
7 family and friends, mourn the passing of Joseph P. Colgan; and  
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to the family of Joseph Colgan as an expression of  
11 our sympathy.